

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES INDIAN INSPECTOR

FOR

INDIAN TERRITORY,

D 5882-1903

Muskogee, Ind. T., Mar. 4, 1903.

Mr. E. H. Wilson,  
National Secretary, Choctaw Nation,  
Doaksville, Indian Territory.

Sir:-

I respectfully return herewith the act of the National Council of the Choctaw Nation, which was forwarded without the approval of the Principal Chief, entitled "An Act taxing non-citizens residing in the Choctaw Nation and holding more live stock than is allowed by law."

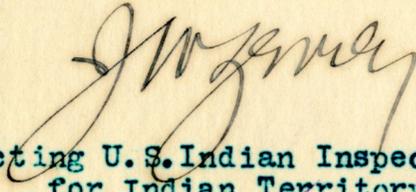
This act was disapproved by the President, as shown by the endorsement thereon, February 21, 1903, for the following reasons:

While it would undoubtedly be advisable to provide a uniform system of tribal taxation for live stock introduced in both the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, this act was objectionable because it provided for a tax of fifty cents per head on cattle, while in the Chickasaw Nation and other nations, the cattle tax is only twenty-five cents per head. Also, the language of section 1 is indefinite, in providing that non-citizens are required to pay certain taxes upon live stock which they hold, more than "is allowed by law." The present laws governing the matter of non-citizens

holding live stock, are subject to various constructions, and it was believed that any act to entitle it to executive approval should specifically state what stock is exempted.

This act also provided that the proceeds arising from the collection of these taxes should be placed to the credit of the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes. It is believed that money collected for permit or privilege taxes or the holding of live stock within the limits of the Choctaw Nation should be placed to the credit of the Choctaw Nation, and that no part of it belongs to the Chickasaw Nation.

Very respectfully,

  
Acting U. S. Indian Inspector  
for Indian Territory.

D.H.K. (C)  
Encl. 184.